

great Sheriff, Sheriff Leon Wilmot from Yuma, Arizona.

Sheriff Wilmot has been an effective law enforcement officer and a staunch advocate in opposing illegal immigration and for supporting the rule of law. His leadership has recently been recognized by the National Sheriff's Association which has named him Chairman of its Immigration and Border Security Committee.

Much deserved Sheriff Wilmot, congratulations. Know that we support your efforts here in Washington, D.C.

#### HONORING SERGEANT ERIC LUND

#### HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2015*

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeant Eric Lund, a true American hero, as well as the community that banded together to help serve one of their neighbors who sacrificed so much in defense of our freedom.

Sergeant Eric Lund joined the U.S. Army National Guard in 2003 after graduating from Ludington High School. He served with the 126th C Company as a gunner atop a Military All-Terrain Vehicle, and was in Afghanistan when he was injured in May 2012 as a result of a roadside IED. The explosion resulted in serious injuries including the loss of both arms.

Eric spent over two years enduring numerous surgeries during his rehabilitation in San Antonio, Texas. However, he knew his goal was to be back home in Ludington—near friends, family, and the water. Returning home for Eric also meant living an active lifestyle that include biking, being outdoors, and most importantly, being able to live independently and tackle everyday tasks on his own.

That dream became a reality as a result of an outpouring of support from the Ludington community and the "Helping a Hero" organization.

As part of the their first Michigan project, "Helping a Hero," working with Malliet Construction, built Eric a new home featuring adaptive technology to allow for independent living tools like voice activation and a shower with scrubbers. Donations from the Ludington community came in various forms—from money to materials and labor. There are so many people to thank for making this project a reality for Eric, and I will be proud to join them all on June 8, 2015 for the neighborhood "Welcome Home" ceremony.

As our nation's heroes return home, we must welcome them back and recognize the sacrifices they made protecting our freedoms and way of life. As the Ludington community has proven, we can and must help serve these brave men and women. So long as there are soldiers like Sergeant Eric Lund fighting for us, we can never forget that the cost of freedom is high.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

#### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak in opposition of the proposed cuts to the Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery Program (TIGER) under the Fiscal Year 2016 Transportation Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill.

Since 2009, the Department of Transportation has provided state and local governments with grants to complete infrastructure projects. Many communities have profited from these investments, providing neighborhoods with safer pedestrian pathways, revitalizing economically distressed areas, and reducing congestion from traffic.

TIGER grants are meant to provide eligibility to infrastructure projects that do not qualify for restrictive formula based federal funding. Freight, port, and bridge projects across the country have benefited from financial support from TIGER. Reducing accessibility to TIGER grants will prolong infrastructure projects and increase traffic in our communities.

The House FY16 THUD appropriations bill includes \$100 million for TIGER grants. This is a \$400 million reduction from the 2015 enacted level, cutting the Department of Transportation's budget by 80%.

Severe cuts to TIGER are troubling, and substantial funding for the program is crucial to my District. For example, the Durfee Avenue grade separation proposal in Pico Rivera would reduce an estimated 15.3 hours of vehicle delays on a daily basis. Rosemead Boulevard/Lakewood Boulevard in my District carries tens of thousands of cars every day, providing goods movement to the Gateway cities. The Del Amo Boulevard bridge is structurally deficient, outdated, and in need of maintenance to improve lane capacity problems.

I ask that my colleagues join me in opposing the 80% cuts to TIGER grants and language restricting TIGER eligibility in the HOUSE FY16 THUD bill. Providing funding for these and other TIGER projects are about providing services that communities deserve.

THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MS. CORA CIOTTI FROM THE WELDON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

#### HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2015*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent,

Ms. Cora Ciotti, as she retires after working nearly 40 years in the education field. Ms. Ciotti began her career in education in New York where she worked as a Youth School Officer for the New Hyde Park School system. Later, she moved to Weldon, North Carolina, in my congressional district, where she worked for the Weldon City Public School system in a number of capacities.

Before embarking on a career in education, Ms. Ciotti attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York where she was trained and certified as a Youth School Officer. Ms. Ciotti's training helped her to navigate some of the unique challenges that were presented by students and empowered her to have a dynamic and positive influence on their lives. Many of the youth who were influenced by Ms. Ciotti decades ago have grown into productive citizens who are making positive contributions to their communities.

After relocating to Weldon, North Carolina, Ms. Ciotti began working with the Weldon City Public Schools, where she served as a Teacher's Assistant and Attendance Counselor, among other important roles. She demonstrated care, compassion, and dedication to the students with whom she worked. If any student was hungry, Ms. Ciotti fed them. If any student lacked clothing, Ms. Ciotti clothed them. At times, Ms. Ciotti even provided shelter for some of our troubled youth by opening up her own home.

Ms. Ciotti was indeed special in her own way to the youth; she possessed a talent for reaching the youth right where they were; she reserved judgement; she changed the lives of many and pushed them in a positive direction, and for that we should all be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Cora Ciotti has positively influenced the lives of countless young people over her nearly 40-year career in education. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Ciotti for her dedication to generations of young people and in offering her best wishes as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM LOUIS "BILL" HORTSMAN

#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2015*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of William Louis "Bill" Hortsman, a devoted family man, respected Hoosier leader, and a selfless contributor to the Jennings County community. Bill leaves behind his wife of 52 years, Ruth Ann Hortsman, and his two children, Duane and Denise.

Mr. Hortsman graduated from North Vernon High School in 1951 and, in addition to attending First United Methodist Church in North Vernon, was also a member of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church in Charles-town.

Bill is a true patriot who served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 after graduating from high school. In his early career, Bill worked for Hortsman Standard Service Station and Hortsman's Standard Oil Delivery.

Bill was also well-known for his commitment to his community. He was a life-long volunteer